



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 838 – Transportation - Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Service - County Funding

SPONSOR: Senator Young

HEARING DATE: March 10, 2022

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 838 – Transportation - Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Service - County Funding**, which requires the Secretary of Transportation to identify separately within the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) annual budget at least \$4,305,908 of funding in fiscal year beginning with FY 2024 and a certain amount of funding in all subsequent fiscal years to be used for county elderly and handicapped transportation services.

SB 838 supports the County's ability to provide reliable, safe and efficient demand response services for elderly and clients with disabilities. The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation provides transportation services to the elderly and the handicapped via the County's Call-A-Bus paratransit program. By codifying that this funding may not decrease below the previous fiscal year's appropriation and starting in fiscal year 2025, will increase annually, by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI) to account for inflation the County will be provided with a stable, consistent, growing source of revenue to support the elderly and handicapped. The CPI typically increases by a few percentage points annually. However, if there is a decline or no growth in the CPI, the program must still be funded at same level as the previous year. Funding cannot be reduced. While these services are funded within the annual MDOT budget and codifying their solvency could impact other programs, we support taking this step as it helps assure reliable transportation for some of the County's most vulnerable residents.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 838** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.